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PAG/M-888-64
6 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center
SUBJECT: Update of Cuban Briefing Notes

In response to your request the attached Summary of Military Activity observed from aerial photography of Cuba is presented for your use. This updated version contains only information from photography and no attempt has been made to incorporate collateral information.

25X1A



Assistant for Photographic Analysis, NPIC

Attachment:
Military Activity of Cuba
(Updated Notes)

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MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CUBA

I. INTRODUCTION

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Aerial surveillance of the Island of Cuba began in late [redacted] and has continued on a near-regular pace through the fall of [redacted]. A total of approximately 800 high altitude and 162 low altitude missions totaling approximately 4,249,760 and 59,260 total linear feet of film respectively were accomplished against highest priority targets throughout the island area. Immediate exploitation and reporting by NPIC was performed on each mission accomplished and disseminated community-wide within a 24 hour period after receipt of film. A brief high-light review of military activity observed and reported follows.

II. SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE SYSTEM

Since the withdrawal of the offensive missiles in 1962 there has been a redeployment of many of the Cuban SAM sites. the SAM deployment has evolved from an area defense of the entire island to a point defense of important military objectives with primary protection given to the Havana complex.

25X1D As of [redacted] there were 24 operational SAM sites, 23 on the main
25X1D island, and one at Sigüanea on the Isle of Pines. The first major changes,
25X1D in addition to general site improvement occurred in [redacted]. These involved re-
25X1D location of three sites during the period [redacted]; a second
25X1D period of site relocation during the last week of [redacted] and the first
25X1D part of [redacted] involving eight SAM sites and one SAM assembly area; and,
25X1D activity during [redacted] involving the movement of two SAM sites.
25X1D It is of interest to note that at the new positions of the latter two SAM
25X1D sites introduction of non-Soviet tents was observed on photography for the
25X1D first time. Site activity remained static until [redacted] when four more SAM's
25X1D were relocated. In late [redacted] five additional
25X1D sites were relocated into the Havana area. Five newly vacated sites can be
identified with this latest SAM deployment thereby maintaining the number of
SAM sites at 24. There is no evidence of Soviet type tents at 12 of the
present SAM sites.

25X1D Several SAM assembly areas were also relocated to better service the
redeployed SAM sites. As of late [redacted] SAM assembly areas are as
follows:

A. Ciguantes	- Original site
B. Santiago de Cuba	- Original site
C. Victoria de la Tunas	- Original site
D. San Diego de Las Vegas	- Original site
E. Torrens	- Established [redacted]
F. Tapaste	- Established [redacted]

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The foregoing six assembly areas represent a reduction of one from the original seven areas.

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III. AIRFIELDS

Significant Air activity can be identified at 8 Cuban airfields.

- A. San Julian
- B. San Antonio de los Banos
- C. Playa Baracoa
- D. Campo Libertad
- E. Camilo Cienfuegos
- F. Holguin
- G. Camaguey
- H. Jose Marti

Two airfields, San Julian and Holguin, were the site of IL-28 assembly and shipping crate storage prior to the withdrawal of these aircraft during the crisis of 1962.

25X1D High performance jet fighters were widely dispersed throughout the island during the 1962 crisis. Beginning in [REDACTED] there was a gradual consolidation of these jet fighters. As of [REDACTED] the high performance jet aircraft are to be found primarily at four Cuban airfields: San Antonio de los Banos, Camilo Cienfuegos, Holguin and San Julian.

The inventory of approximately 100 jet fighters includes the MIG-15 (FAGOT), MIG-17 (FRESCO), MIG-19 (FARMER) and MIG-21 (FISHBED).

IV. CRUISE MISSILES

25X1D There are four operational cruise missile sites, located at Siguanea, on the Isle of Pines, Santa Cruz del Norte, Campo Florido and Banes. Each site contains two revetted launchers, with the exception of the Campo Florido site, which is unrevetted. These sites were operational prior to [REDACTED] and no major changes have taken place.

Three storage sites in support of the four cruise missile sites are located at Santiago de Cuba, Mayari Arriba and San Jose de las Lajas. San Jose de las Lajas replaced Guerra as a storage site during [REDACTED] 25X1D

V. MILITARY CAMPS

25X1D In late [REDACTED] at each of the four armored camps -- Artemisa, Holguin, Remedios, and Santiago de las Vegas -- a medium tank battalion and an assault gun company were identified by the types and number of tanks and self-propelled guns observed. Armor and heavy weapon types located at these four camps include T-54 tanks, PT-76 tanks, SU-100 self-propelled guns, SNAPPER anti-tank rocket launchers and FROG one-round rocket launchers.

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██████████ witnessed the beginning of a gradual but steady reduction of Soviet type tents and mess facilities at all suspect or confirmed Soviet military camps. Late ██████████ finds no indication of large concentrations of Soviet type tents at any military installation in Cuba.

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Approximately 650 tanks/SP guns have been identified on photography of the island. Estimates of Cuban Armor OB runs as high as 745 tanks/SP guns. Much of the armor is now widely dispersed and/or under protective cover. However, as of late ██████████ an approximate average of 455 tanks and tracked assault guns have been observed parked on hardstands and other open areas.

VI. NAVAL

There are four significant naval facilities from the standpoint of Naval OB. They are Havana, Mariel, Cienfuegos, and Cabanas. These four ports account for about 90 percent of the naval combat vessels in Cuba, as identified on photography. Vessel types include PF, PCE, Kronshtadt-Class PC, S.O.-1-Class Submarine chaser, Komar-Class PGMG, P-4 MTB, P-6 MTB and various small patrol craft. Cuban Naval OB is as follows:

A.	Komar	-	12
B.	PF	-	4
C.	PCE	-	2
D.	PC	-	6
E.	S.O.-1	-	6
F.	P-6	-	11
G.	P-4	-	8

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The introduction of Komar Cruise missile boats, Kronshtadt Class PC's and P-6 motor torpedo boats in Cuban waters occurred prior to the missile crisis of 1962. P-4 MTB's were first observed during ██████████ and the S.O.-1 submarine chasers made their initial appearance during ██████████ of the same year.

The P-4 and P-6 motor torpedo boats make frequent sorties to such Cuban ports as Banes on the north east coast and Siguanoa, the naval base located on the Isle of Pines. The MTB's will operate from these bases for short periods of time before returning to their home port.

VII. SUMMARY

In summary, the military activity highlights observed and reported through the NPIC exploitation of high and low-level missions accomplished to date over Cuba include:

A. Introduction and detection of MRBM missiles, associated support equipment and site deployment.

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B. Detection of IRBM missile-system site deployment and construction and the withdrawal and/or dismantlement of each missile system.

C. Detection of the introduction, deployment and assembly of IL-28 jet bombers and their withdrawal.

D. Introduction and immediate detection of SA-2 missile system and support site deployment in first a barrier-defense system then later a zone or target defense system.

E. Introduction, detection and reporting of high-performance jet fighter aircraft including the MIG-21 (FISHBED) and its associated air-to-air rocket launcher system.

F. Introduction and continuing reporting as redeployment occurred on Soviet tanks, armored assault guns, and other assorted vehicles and field equipment including field artillery, mortars and AAA.

G. Introduction and detection of coastal defense cruise missile sites and their support facilities, as well as FROGS, SNAPPERS, KOMAR Cruise Missile Boats, Sub Chasers, and other numerous small patrol craft.

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